

## Troop 212 – Marooned Aug 2019

Dear Scouts and Scouters,

Since we are a High Adventure troop, and with an eye towards “being prepared”, we are going on a three hour boat ride to Catalina Island, where we are going to maroon our scouts on a remote beach on the island to see how they will survive in the wild. This event is a cross between Swiss Family Robinson survival and Gilligan's Island. We've been training the scouts during the troop meetings, for the last few weeks, on the basic survival skills everyone who ventures into this event should know. They are;

1. **Shelter** (and proper attire) – Shelter is the survival technique by which scouts protect their body from excess exposure to the sun, cold, wind, rain or snow. Anything that takes away or adds to a scout's overall body temperature can be the enemy. This risk must be controlled in a matter of hours.
2. **Water** - Water is vital towards the scout's survival. We suggest each scout bring at least 2 one litre water bottles, filled at home....might need more.
3. **Food** – Food is energy. After the scout has shelter and water, he will need to replenish his energy by fishing for his food or consuming some of the emergency rations handed out during the pack check on Thursday, August 15th, at 7 PM
4. **Fire** – Fire is a critical survival skill. Fire can purify water, cook food, signal rescuers, provide warmth, light and comfort, help keep predators at a distance, and can be a most welcome friend and companion. This risk is important to assess soonest based on the three needs above.
5. **Signaling** – Signaling is unique among survival techniques in that it gives the scout the means and ability to alert any potential rescuers that the scout is in need of HELP. Fire, flashing light, bright color markers, flags, mirrors, whistles all will help the scout be found. This risk is important to assess soonest possible based on when the scout will be considered overdue, as a result of his submitting a safety flight plan to a trusted individual at home.

If you would like to attend this adventure, please water proof all necessary gear into a single daypack that can get submerged in the salt water sea. Nothing else will be allowed as a "carry " item. You will be simulating survival conditions by swimming to the beach shore with this gear bag in tow, as part of the story line involving the boat. Since we will be "sinking", time to escape is minimal.

Please make sure you have, at a minimum, the boy scout ten essential items in your pack, plus any other equipment you consider important for your survival, but still willing to lose, if your bag sinks to the bottom of the ocean. We stress seriously the need to make sure your gear is packed in waterproof bags in an attempt to keep as much of your gear as dry as possible.

Remember, your gear will get sandy as well, likely drag across the sandy beach, similar to really being beach marooned or shipwrecked. A well packed bag could also serve as an additional floatation aid in front of you as you kick towards land, or you could bring a small piece of rope, and drag the pack behind you as you swim towards land, as long as, for safety, it is not actually tied to your person. A hand loop is good for this purpose. There is no loading dock at the beach site, just big waves, so it is up to you to try and keep your gear as clean and dry as possible.

Since we are going to be "marooned", there is no need to go food shopping, but there will be some survival food distributed during the bag check meeting on Thursday, August 15th, at 7 PM.

The campsite will be very primitive, ( no water and no toilet) so the scouts are encouraged to pack a few survival essentials, such as: water, energy bars, matches, small blanket/ sleeping bag liner/sheet, fishing line, hooks, trowel, toilet paper, and anything else a prepared scout can think of for this adventure.

As part of the program, there may be some buried treasure, (food rations) hidden on the island, ( can you read a treasure map?) or possibly washed ashore during a "shipwreck", along with some other ancillary items to help the scouts cope during this marooned adventure. It should be an exciting experience.

We will **not** be providing troop tents, lexan food boxes, wood cook boxes or any other gear from troop storage....just what is listed below YOU are bringing. More detailed instructions will be shared with the boys during the Thursday bag check.

Our plan is using the Long Beach Sea Scouts boat, (Johnny Bradford is our Captain) for transport to our primary destination of Cabrillo Beach, and our secondary destination of Gibraltar Beach, divided by a land mark known as Little Gibraltar Point.

We will be loading personal gear onto the Boat, on Friday, August 16 from 6:00 to 7:00 pm , as well as the Boat Captain conducting a required safety review session about the boat with us from 7:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Afterwards, you will be heading home to sleep comfortably in your own bed for the night. We will meet back again at the same dock the next morning, Saturday, August 17 at 6:00 am sharp and will be departing for a three hour boat ride.

The uniform for this event is Class B t-shirt, hat, swim trunks, sunscreen, and water shoes. Just so we are clear on this point ; all participants are expected to swim towards shore when departing the boat for the beach shoreline. We will not be jumping in due to hidden rocks just below the water line, but rather climbing down a ladder to enter the water.

Even though Saturdays lunch and supper, as well as Sundays breakfast, will be part of the survival challenge, the Sunday "Rescue Boat" will have lunch and fresh drinks for us to enjoy on the trip back to home base.

**Loading Meeting:** **Friday, August 16<sup>th</sup>, 6:00 to 8:00 PM** – Boy Scout Sea Base lot. For gear loading and REQUIRED ship safety tour. Please be prompt.

**Boat Departure:** **Saturday, August 17<sup>th</sup>, at 6:00 AM** – Same parking lot. Please arrive before departure time.

**Return Arrival:** **Sunday, August 18<sup>th</sup>, at approximately 2:00 TO 3:00 pm**– Same parking lot. CHECK SPOT FOR ARRIVAL UPDATES.

**Cost:** **\$60.00** per person to cover the cost of camp fees, boat fuel, ice, and some food. Please bring \$60.00 CASH or CHECK to the Troop Meeting , on **Monday, August 12 th**, with the standard permission slip which can be found on the website. All checks need to me made out to “ BSA Troop 212”.

Space on this trip is limited to the first 25 sign ups, so be sure to get your payment and paperwork in on time. If two scouts are tied with equal qualifications to attend, then the Rating Chart will be used to break any ties.

And of course, as in any BSA water event, a safety qualification to attend this trip is having passed the BSA swim test at camp this year, or equivalent swim capable certification, as determined by the Scoutmaster. Also, we encourage you to bring from home your PFD, which will make the trip to shore easier, and provide an experience that "swimming" in a PFD is a different skill, and good to know.

The Boy Scout list of 10 essential should be followed. Please make sure the owners name is on each item. In addition, you may want to consider the following;

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Appropriate clothing<br><b>(Day high ; 85°/Night low; 55°)</b> | <input type="checkbox"/> Insect Spray   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brim Hat, Wide   | <input type="checkbox"/> Matches & tinder   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Towel  | <input type="checkbox"/> trail food for Sat Lunch,<br>supper, & Sun. Brkfast, in<br>case you cannot find/catch<br>any.                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> First Aid Kit, personal  |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Flashlight   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ground Cloth   |   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Handy-wipes  | <input type="checkbox"/> Pocket Knife   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 2 Hydration packs or 2<br>Canteens (FILLED at home)            | <input type="checkbox"/> Poncho   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Sunscreen and Chapstick  | <input type="checkbox"/> Rope – 10 Feet   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet paper   | <input type="checkbox"/> Sunglasses   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Light jacket   | <input type="checkbox"/> Dry clothes for evening  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fishing Gear ( Optional)                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelter. no troop tents<br>provided  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mask & Snorkel (Optional)                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Light blanket/folded<br>sheet/sleeping bag liner, or<br>sleeping bag, but it must fit in<br>your daypack/backpack. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> PFD ( Suggested)   |   |

We expect the days to be quite warm, but the nights will be a little chilly due to high winds. Please bring warm clothes for the evening.

This ship has no galley, so a Saturday bag lunch with drink is encouraged.

As is the tradition of Troop 212, this will be a very safe outing. We will have a five watt HAM radio with us to be in touch with the Sea Scout boat, and we will have SPOT with us, so families can monitor our return transport progress for timely Sunday pick up in Long Beach. We believe cell service is not available. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours in Scouting,

John Douglas

[Scoutmaster@troop212.net](mailto:Scoutmaster@troop212.net)